

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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GOVERNOR WARNER'S LATINO ADVISORY COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING

~Virginia Latino Advisory Commission meeting followed by a public hearing in the City of Virginia Beach~

RICHMOND - Governor Mark Warner's Latino Advisory Commission will hold a free public hearing for the Latino community to identify challenges and significant issues related to education, healthcare, business, language access, identification, hispanic representation and law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth. Information collected at the public hearings, which are being coordinated by the Commission's subcommittees, will be part of the Commission's final report due to the Governor in September. This will be the first public hearing of the Virginia Latino Advisory Commission to focus on numerous concerns of the Latino community taking place in Virginia Beach. As a statewide Commission this will be the first of many more public hearings that will be held in various locations.

The public hearing focusing on Latino issues will take place in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at Virginia Beach Municipal Center (located at 2401 Courthouse Drive, City Council Chambers) on Friday, June 4th 2004 and is scheduled from 3:00pm-5:00pm following the Commission's general meeting taking place at the same venue in Room 234, City Manager's Conference Room which will be held from 12:00pm - 3:00pm. This event will be hosted by the Hispanic Community Dialogue and will allow participants a structured forum in which they can voice their questions and concerns about issues pertaining to the Latino community in Virginia.

"In preparation for our final report to the Governor, we believe it is of utmost importance to hear directly from the Hispanic community in Virginia as part of the information-gathering phase of our research" said Walter Tejada, chairman of the commission.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Latino community in Virginia more than doubled between 1990 and 2000 - from a population of about 160,000 to 329,540 in 2000 comprising approximately 5% of the state's population.

The Latino Advisory Commission, created through an Executive Order, will:

- Advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and government links between the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Latino community in Virginia and Latin America.

- Undertake studies, symposiums, research and factual reports to gather information to formulate and present recommendations to the Governor relative to issues of concern and importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth.
- Advise the Governor as needed regarding any statutory, regulatory, or other issues of importance to the Latino community in the Commonwealth.

The commission consists of up to 21 members appointed by the Governor representing business, education, the arts and government.